

New UK minister

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May has appointed Seema Kennedy as the country's new Public Health and Primary Care Minister, with responsibility for pharmacy.

Kennedy replaces Steve Brine who resigned from the government last week to vote against May's controversial Brexit strategy.

Health literacy self care key

MEN'S health literacy and self care is addressed in a new report from Global Action on Men's Health (GAMH), *Who Self-Cares Wins: A global perspective on men and self-care*.

The Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) welcomed the report, which highlighted Australia as a leader in men's health policy but recognised that "there is a way to go until men are empowered to practice self care with confidence".

ASMI CEO, Dean Schoombie, said, "We know that by last measure, 60% of Australians have less than adequate levels of health literacy".

Health literacy is a key pillar of self care, Schoombie explained.

"While individuals should take responsibility for their own health, a multi-layered and systems-wide approach is needed to empower men to practice self care with confidence.

"The report commends the fact that Australia is one of only three countries to have a specific national men's health policy, along with

Brazil and Ireland."

Recommendations from the report include specific policies around men's health, enhancement of men's health literacy, male-accessible health services, improved training for healthcare professionals and more research on improving men's engagement in self care - visit asmi.com.au.

RAC PainChek trial

A PHARMACIST embedded in a Residential Aged Care (RAC) facility in Tasmania is using artificial intelligence app PainChek to assess and improve pain in non-verbal elderly residents.

The smartphone app is now being used in more than 66 aged care sites with over 4,000 residents around Australia.

The Tasmanian trial is unique in that the app is in the hands of an embedded accredited pharmacist.

The pilot is being monitored as a potential model for other RACs.

See more at painchek.com.

Measles spreading

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt has announced urgent measures to stem the tide of measles infections sweeping across parts of Australia.

An awareness campaign has been developed with videos to roll out in the coming weeks explaining the condition as well as urging health professionals to discuss vaccination.



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Dispensary Corner

FOR those of a certain vintage, the name 'the Wet Bandits' will bring back memories of the 90s hit movie *Home Alone* - now pharmacy staff in Niagara Falls have foiled the Shampoo Bandits.

Employees at Pine Pharmacy identified a man who entered the store and smuggled up to 30 bottles of shampoo inside his jacket, before making a clean getaway with the hair products.

Using CCTV local police were able to link the not-so grubby crook to "a multitude of shampoo thefts" in the area - but while cops thought they'd found their man, Pine Pharmacy fell victim to a second raid, with a review of security tapes revealing another shampoo bandit was on the loose pinching eight bottles of shampoo.

Both suspects are still on the run, with the public urged to be on the lookout for a man and woman with 'fabulous' hair.

MEANWHILE, a pharmacy in the Canadian town of Barrie fell victim to a sweet-smelling thief, who pinched a bottle of perfume.

BarrieToday.com reported that the male criminal, who was wearing beige pants, a baseball cap and green/yellow/red striped sweater smuggled the products out of the store under his top.

Police believe the man may have been accompanied by a woman in her 40s who left the store a short time later, setting off the security alarm as her purse contained some make-up which she claimed had been given to her as a gift.

Could these scented international crimes be the work of an international grooming operation?

Pharmacy Assistant MOVE

PHARMACY Assistants in Queensland are to receive additional training and support as a result of Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch negotiations for funding.

The Queensland Government's *Training in Emerging and Innovative Industries Fund* is designed to prepare pharmacy assistants for the future of community pharmacy.

With a focus on digital disruption and new technologies, the Modernising Vocational Education (MOVE) project aims to support the pharmacy assistant workforce by identifying skills gaps and delivering training on topics to meet these needs.

Queensland Guild Education and Workplace Relations State Manager Kathy Knack said the training will be offered to 130 experienced and committed pharmacy assistants who currently work in community pharmacy in Queensland.

"It is great to see the Queensland Government supporting innovative education for pharmacy assistants.

"This program would usually cost over \$500 but has been fully

funded by the Training in Emerging and Innovative Industries Fund," Knack said.

"I would encourage all interested pharmacy assistants to apply and help to shape the future role of community pharmacy assistants."

The training will be offered as blended learning with two online education modules and a one day workshop in locations throughout regional and metropolitan Queensland.

The training workshops will be held on 07 May in Toowoomba, 15 May in Cairns, 29 May in Townsville, 05 Jun in Brisbane, 11 Jun on the Gold Coast and 19 Jun in Rockhampton.

Visit guild.org.au for details.

Therapies review

THE Federal Government has announced an updated review of certain natural therapies, assessing additional available evidence and undertaking public consultations to help advise whether they should be eligible for subsidy through the private health insurance rebate.

SHPA EMM meeting

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has announced its first ever specialty conference, taking place in Sydney 22-23 Jun with a focus on Electronic Medication Management (EMM).

Early bird registrations are now open for the event which is convened by James Grant and the members of SHPA's EMM Leadership Committee - **CLICK HERE.**

Guild Update

Positive step for vaccination in Qld

THE Pharmacy Guild congratulates the Qld Government on allowing pharmacists to administer flu vaccinations to patients over the age of 16.

This increases the number of adult patients in Qld who can benefit from access to vaccination by trained pharmacists in their local community pharmacy.

While there are people at high risk of the flu, including those aged 65 and above, the flu can in fact strike anyone, even the young, fit and healthy. In fact, one-in-four people who are hospitalised with the flu have no underlying medical condition.

The next step for Qld - and all State and Territory Governments that have not yet done so - is to make the National Immunisation Program vaccines available through community pharmacy so that all Australians have equitable access to these vital vaccines.

Win with Nutri-Synergy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Nutri-Synergy are giving away the NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment and Sensitive Skin Cleanser valued at \$38.90.

NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment is a natural, cortisone-free cream which nourishes, relieves and repairs problem, irritable, damaged or chronic dry skin conditions. Use NS Sensitive Skin Cleanser together with NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment to maintain normal skin function and help prevent flare ups. Visit: www.NutriSynergy.com.au for more.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name a problem skin condition that NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment helps.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Felicity Downes-Casipit.

